



# Arkansas Department of Education

Johnny Key, Commissioner

*Transforming Arkansas to lead the nation in student-focused education*

April 11, 2019

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## **Arkansas Leadership Academy Names New Master Principal**

**LITTLE ROCK** — Karrie Arbuckle, a principal at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School in Bentonville, achieved the status of Master School Principal and was recognized April 11 at the State Board of Education meeting. To achieve this designation from the Arkansas Leadership Academy's Master Principal Program, Arbuckle completed three years of rigorous professional development plus an additional year of performance evaluations.

Arbuckle holds both a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from Harding University at Searcy, where she currently serves as an adjunct professor. At the district level, she serves on the ALE placement committee and is an elementary representative for Bentonville's personnel policy committee. As principal, she partners with Amazeum to implement Maker Space Education in Bentonville schools.

"The Department of Education and State Board of Education are pleased to recognize outstanding principals each year," said Arkansas Department of Education Commissioner Johnny Key. "The Master Principal Program provides principals who are seeking to learn and grow professionally the opportunity to strengthen their leadership skills. In order to lead the nation in student-focused education, excellent leaders, such as Ms. Arbuckle, are essential. I congratulate her on this high achievement and look forward to her continued success in education."

"Developing principals with the talent to lead complex organizations requires giving them a broad range of leadership experiences along the way," said ALA Director Dr. Clint Jones. "This rigorous, four-year program enables school leaders to enhance and accelerate student and adult learning. I commend Mrs. Arbuckle for being dedicated to her students, teachers, and learning community. I also want to thank the Arkansas Legislature, the Arkansas Department of Education, and the academy's partners for their support and vision in building the leadership capacity of principals across our great state."

Successful completion of the program qualifies an individual for Master School Principal status. Master Principals receive a \$9,000 bonus each year for five years upon earning the designation and are eligible for an additional \$25,000 per year for five years if they are selected to serve at a low-performing school.

To learn more about the program, visit <https://bit.ly/2GgmK4G> or contact Brenda Tash at [bgtash@uark.edu](mailto:bgtash@uark.edu) or 479-575-3030.

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Pictured Above: Johnny Key (ADE Commissioner), Dr. Jay Barth (State Board of Education Chair), Karrie Arbuckle (Master Principal), Tamara Gibson (Executive Director of Elementary Education, Bentonville School District), and Dr. Debbie Jones (Superintendent, Bentonville School District)



Pictured Above: Dr. Clint Jones (ALA Director), Johnny Key (ADE Commissioner), Dr. Jay Barth (State Board of Education Chair), Karrie Arbuckle (Master Principal), and Brenda Tash (Master Principal Program Leader)

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